

5911 E. Woodmont Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45213
May 31, 1999

4 2 7 6 '99 JUN -4 P1:44
Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

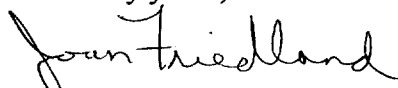
Let me express my deep concern over the use of certain antibiotics as growth promoter for livestock that are used as human food. The increased use of these antibiotics for livestock has turned into an alarming medical problem. Now when these same drugs are used to treat human infections, many bacteria are resistant to them.

In other words, the desire of livestock producers, such as hog and poultry farmers, to fatten their animals artificially, has turned into a major public health crisis. As a retired epidemiologist, I am disturbed by the escalating dangers from resistant infections.

Two years ago the World Health Organization called for a ban on the use of antibiotics to fatten livestock. Since then, the European Union has adopted such a ban. It is time for the Food and Drug Administration to ban this unsafe practice here.

The lobbying efforts of the livestock industry and drug manufacturers must not be allowed to dictate public health policy regarding antibiotics added to livestock feed. We urge you to take vigorous regulatory steps before we have a real crisis on our hands.

Sincerely yours,



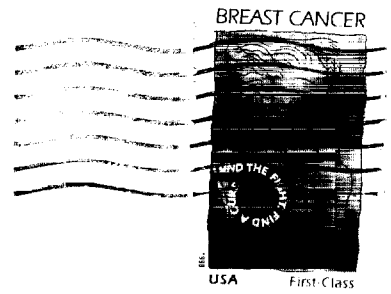
Joan Friedland, Ph.D.

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Cincinnati, OH 45213-2009



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